

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

## **I. Status of the Application**

Claims 1 - 3 remain in this application. Claim 1 has been amended, and new claims 4 -6 have been added. No new matter is introduced. Support for the amendments may be found, for example, at page 12, lines 12 - 23, page 13, lines 1 - 8, page 14, lines 8 - 11 and page 17, lines 18 - 25 of Applicants' specification.

## **II. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102, 103**

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,237,713 to Onodera et al. Claims 1 - 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,155,376 to Cheng in view of Onodera. Applicants amend claim 1 to further define the nature of their invention, and respectfully traverse these rejections.

**In amended independent claim 1, Applicants disclose:**

**1. A steering apparatus for a vehicle, comprising:**

a steering shaft supported in a cylindrical housing so that the steering shaft can freely move in an axial direction; and

a nut member screwed onto a screw groove formed in an outer circumference of the steering shaft through a rolling member and rotatably supported in the housing,

wherein steering is performed by transmitting rotation of a motor, which is driven according to steering, to the nut member and converting rotation of the nut member into movement of the steering shaft,

the housing is constructed by coaxially connecting a first housing having an integrally formed fixing section for fastening to a vehicle body with a second housing having a fixing section for fastening to the vehicle body in a separate member,

the nut member is supported by a thrust bearing fitted and fixed in the first housing so that the nut member cannot move in both directions along an axial direction, and





If there are any other issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through either an additional Response or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

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Respectfully submitted,

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